

CONFIDENTIAL
OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD
WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 16, 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE BOARD ASSISTANTS

SUBJECT: FCDA Release on Proposed Nation-Wide Civil Defense Exercises.

Reference: NSC Action No. 1061. "Nation-Wide Civil Defense Exercise"

NSC Action No. 1061, "Nation-Wide Civil Defense Exercise" provides that

"Timing of the public announcement of the exercise, as well as the general line to be taken by publicity about it will be coordinated by the Operations Coordinating Board."

FCDA representative has requested OCB action to clear the attached draft news release for immediate issuance to the press. The Working Group on the Implementation of the President's UNGA speech, chaired by Mr. C. D. Jackson, although not formally charged with responsibility in this matter, has considered and approved the text on the basis that no foreseeable influence on foreign climate of opinion can be anticipated. The FCDA representative advises that expeditious action on this release is requested at this time in view of the fact that garbled versions of the forthcoming test have already appeared in Chicago newspapers and in press wire services. FCDA is currently receiving inquiries regarding the proposed test. Approval for immediate release of the attached would expedite civil defense planning and avoid public confusion regarding the actual date and purpose of the exercise.

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Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board Assistants on behalf of their principals approve the issuance of the attached at the meeting of the Board Assistants on Friday, March 19.

Elmer B. Staats
Executive Officer

Attachment:

Proposed Initial FCDA Press Release

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PROPOSED INITIAL FCDA PRESS RELEASE ON NATIONWIDE

CIVIL DEFENSE EXERCISE SLATED FOR JUNE 14-15

For Immediate Release

A nationwide civil defense training exercise will be conducted June 14 and 15, according to announcement today by the Federal Civil Defense Administration.

All 48 States, as well as Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Alaska, will participate in the test, FCDA reported.

This test is a routine augmentation of existing test programs. It is not occasioned by any increase of alarm within the United States or the free world. The exercise will be based on a hypothetical atomic attack on 42 ^{selected} critical target areas in this country and on Honolulu, Hawaii, and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

For the purposes of the test, it will be assumed that an attack on the continental United States and on Alaska will be carried out by ~~between 400 and 500~~ aircraft carrying atomic weapons. The attack on Hawaii and Puerto Rico supposedly will be made by guided missiles with atomic warheads launched from submarine without warning.

The purpose of the exercise is to increase the operational efficiency of all civil defense organizations--local, state, regional, and national to provide realistic training. The exercise is designed also to disclose weaknesses in emergency operations and indicate where improvements are required.

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The Department of Defense, Office of Defense Mobilization, Federal Communications Commission, and other agencies will cooperate with FCDA in conducting the test. ~~Army Area Commands and other military establishments will also participate.~~ It is expected that Canada also will cooperate in the test.

FCDA pointed out that the object of the exercise was the training of civil defense personnel and any public participation would be at the discretion of State civil defense directors.

The exercise will start in the target cities with the simulated attack, followed by assessment of hypothetical casualties and damage, and determination of the assistance required. This information will then be transmitted to State control centers and thence to regional and national headquarters which will analyze the situation and determine actions required to provide necessary assistance. Resources hypothetically utilized will be those assumed to be available at the time of the exercise, as shown by civil defense inventories and stockpiles.

Although numerous exercises involving local and State, State and regional, and regional and national civil defense organizations have been conducted, the coming test will be the first in which all the States will take part at the same time.

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: Officer designations should be used in the "TO" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "TO" column. Each officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing. This Routing and Record Sheet should be returned to Registry.

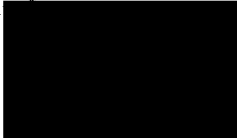
FROM:
Operations Coordinating Board (via PP/ICD/Ln 1309K)

NO.

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DATE

18 MAR 1954

TO	ROOM NO.	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS
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